

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

/072 W

-----141704Z 034811 /41

R 141526Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO AMEMBASSY COTONOU

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9726

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 04470

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINS DM FR

SUBJ: BENIN COUP ATTEMPT: CANARD ENCHAINE ARTICLE

REF: COTONOU 0318 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF SHORT "CANARD" ITEM,
HEADLINED "PARALLEL ARMIES", FOLLOWS.

2. "A GOODLY NUMBER OF THE MERCENARIES WHO RECENTLY
PARTICIPATED IN THE PUTSCH ATTEMPT IN BENIN (EX-DAHOMY)
WERE RECRUITED IN FRANCE AND BELGIUM. THE SDECE
(SERVICE DE DOCUMENTATION EXTERIEURE ET DE CONTRE-
ESPIONAGE) WAS AWARE OF THE OPERATION, BAPTIZED
"CREVETTE". IT OBSERVED AN ATTITUDE OF RESPECTFUL
NEUTRALITY.

3. "THE INSTIGATOR OF THE AFFAIR (ASSISTED BY CERTAIN
AMERICAN AGENTS) WAS EMILE ZINSOU, FORMER PRESIDENT
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OF DAHOMEY, NOW A REFUGEE IN FRANCE.

4. "SPEAKING OF FRENCH MERCENARIES, THEY ARE NOW BEING
RECRUITED FOR MAURITANIA (THE WESTERN SAHARA AFFAIR),
FOR MAYOTTE (STILL-FRENCH COMOROS), AND FOR MOROCCO
(TRAINING COMMANDOES FOR THE ALGERO-MOROCCAN BORDER).

5. "GUNG HO. (HAUT LES COEURS.)"

6. COMMENT: WHILE SATIRICAL, THIS ARTICLE DOUBTLESSLY
WILL BE SEEN BY MANY READERS OF THE "CANARD" AS BEING
FACTUALLY BASED, AT LEAST IN PART. HOWEVER, THE
REFERENCE TO "AMERICAN AGENTS" WILL BE VIEWED WITH LESS
INTEREST IN PARIS THAN THE IMPLICATION THAT FRENCH
SERVICES ARE INVOLVED IN MERCENARY RECRUITMENT FOR A
NUMBER OF AREAS. IT APPEARS UNLIKELY TO US THAT THE
ATTEMPTED COUP IN BENIN WILL STIR THE EDITORS OF THE
"CANARD" TO PUBLISH ANY FURTHER "REVELATIONS" GIVING
DETAILS OF ALLEGED AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT
THERE.
RUSH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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